



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## Policy Committee Meeting Minutes October 11, 2007

The meeting was held at the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Cook County Conference Room, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois. Those present at the meeting were:

### Policy Committee Members Present

**Ken Koehler, Chair**

**Rita Athas**

**Marty Buehler**

**Paul Fish**

**Rupert Graham**

**Jack Groner**

**Luann Hamilton**

**Clayton Harris, III**

**Elliott Hartstein**

**Jamy Lyne**

**John McCarthy**

**Mark Pitstick**

**Thomas Rickert**

**T. J. Ross**

**Norm Stoner**

**Jeff Schielke**

**Chuck Tokarski**

**Tom Zapler**

**Rocco J. Zuccherro**

**McHenry County**

**CMAP**

**Lake County**

**CTA**

(Representing Ron Huberman)

**Cook County**

(Representing Wally Kos)

**Metra**

(Representing Philip A. Pagano)

**CDOT**

(Representing Thomas G. Byrne)

**IDOT**

(Representing Milton R. Sees)

**CMAP**

**Will County**

(Representing Larry Walsh)

**Private Providers**

**RTA**

(Representing S. Schlickman)

**Kane County**

(Representing Karen McConnaughay)

**Pace**

(Representing Richard Kwasneski)

**Federal Highway Administration**

**Council of Mayors**

**DuPage County**

(Representing Tom Cuculich)

**Railroad Companies**

(Representing Michael Payette)

**Illinois State Toll Highway Authority**

## **Policy Committee Members Absent**

**Marisol Simon**

**FTA**

**Bob Davidson**

**Kendall County**

## **Visitors**

Jay Ciavarella

RTA

Lynette Ciavarella

Metra

K. Dobbs

DMMC

Neil D. Ferrari

IDOT

Jacky Grimshaw

CNT

Chalen Hunter

McHenry County

Norman Johnson

IDOT – Springfield

Joe Korpalski

McDOT

Jon-Paul Kohlere

FHWA

Tam Kutzmark

DMMC

Les Nunes

IDOT

Bob Pilat

Village of Niles

Andrew Plummer

RTA

Joel Stauber

CMAP CAC

Mike Walczak

NWMC

Tammy Wierciak

WCMC

## **Staff**

Randy Blankenhorn, Don Kopec

Patricia Berry, Janet Bright, Doug Ferguson, Jill Leary,

Matt Maloney, Patricia Tinnelle

## ***I. CALL TO ORDER***

Vice-chairman Koehler called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

## ***II. OLD BUSINESS***

### **A. Approval of Minutes for June 14, 2007.**

On a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Mr. Buehler, the minutes of the meeting on June 14, 2007 were approved.

### **B. Council of Mayors' Report**

Mayor Schielke reported that the next meeting of the Council of Mayors Executive Committee is scheduled for November 6, 2007 where the mayors will be discussing their advance funding policy and the active program management issue.

The Council of Mayors will have a booth with CMAP at the upcoming Illinois Municipal League. He encouraged everyone to attend.

### **C. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Kopec briefed the committee on staff's involvement with the Burnham Centennial celebration. He noted that it would provide a unique opportunity to engage the public on current transportation planning issues.

Mr. Kopec also explained the status of the development of the developments of regional impact process. A task force was formed to formulate the basic process including the identification of criteria and thresholds for identifying candidate developments.

The results of agency applications for the Urban Partnership Agreement and the corridors of the future program were also presented to the committee. While neither application was successful, staff felt that the corridors of the future program application should have been successful. Staff has spoken to headquarters staff of USDOT about the applications and were informed that a second round of applications for the Urban Partnership Agreement may be coming soon.

## **III. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program**

Doug Ferguson presented the proposed FY08 CMAQ program. It is a multi-year program with 71 projects in fiscal years 2008 through 2012. \$54.8 million was programmed in FY08; \$28.0 million in FY09; \$17.3 million in FY10; \$10.0 million in FY11; and, \$2.6 million in FY12.

On a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Mr. Rickert the FY08 multi-year CMAQ program was approved.

### **B. Metra New Starts**

Mr. Groner provided the committee with a brief update of the Alternative Analyses for two Metra New Start proposals: the Union Pacific Northwest Line and the Union Pacific West Line. Both of these New Starts projects provide significant operational improvements that will enhance the service in the corridors. Each line will be able to operate a greater number of trains, including more express service. There will also be a greater number of trains operating in the reverse commute direction. Additionally, particularly with the Union Pacific West Line, the enhanced service should help to alleviate the congested conditions on the Burlington Northern Line.

Mr. Groner explained that the analysis examined a number of alternatives, including bus. After evaluating all relevant cost and performance factors, the rail upgrade option was deemed the preferred alternative. He asked that the Policy Committee endorse the preferred alternative for these two New Starts projects. On a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Mr. Ross, the

committee endorsed the two selected alternatives. Mr. Koehler abstained from the vote.

**C. Regional Comprehensive Plan**

Mr. Dean of CMAP's staff briefed the committee on the status of the development of the region's comprehensive long range plan. He covered the visioning session that was held at the Illinois Institute of Technology and attended by over 100 individuals. The region's vision will be used to guide the development of the plan, with policies and projects adopted to support that vision.

**D. Legislative Activities**

Mr. Kopec began by updating the committee on the status of Senate Bill 1201 which provides funding for CMAP and corrects some issues with the legislation that created CMAP. The bill passed both houses of the legislature, but received a line item veto from the Governor. The item vetoed was related to the creation of a Wastewater Committee that would replace the NIPC Water Resources Committee which was responsible for making recommendations on amendments to Facility Planning Areas. It is expected that this veto will be overridden by the legislature. However, until such time as that occurs, or the legislature agrees with the veto, the entire bill will not take effect. This could have serious consequences for funding the agency.

Another bill of interest to the committee is Senate Bill 572 which addresses the transit funding crisis. Besides providing a secure source of funding for operations, the bill also provides reforms to the RTA process, including pension changes at the CTA. Mr. Plummer remarked that the RTA is really looking for a long term solution; the recent temporary funding fix will not provide the relief and solution that is necessary. Mr. Ross remarked that the House Mass Transit Committee is meeting to take more testimony on the transit funding issue.

**E. Amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program**

Ms. Ostdick of CMAP's staff described the proposed amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which requires Policy Committee approval. This amendment essentially changes the cross section of the soon to be opened extension of I-355 from four lanes to six lanes. The amendment includes the addition of lanes on selected arterials that interchange with the facility. A new conformity analysis was conducted and a thirty day public comment period held. No comments were received. On a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Ms. Lyne the amendment was approved.

**F. Nominating Committee for the Office of Vice-Chairman**

Mayor Schielke provided the report from the Nominating Committee. The committee has nominated Mr. Walsh of Will County for the Office of Vice-Chairman. Mr. Koehler asked for nomination from the floor. There were none. On a motion by Mr. Rickert, seconded by Mr. Buehler, the

recommendation of the nominating committee was accepted and unanimously approved by the Policy Committee.

**G. Composition of the Transportation Committee**

Ms. Dixon explained that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Policy Committee and the CMAP board specifies that both entities will agree on the composition of the Transportation Committee. The Chicagoland Transportation and Air Quality Commission (CTAQC) has requested that the membership of the Transportation Committee be changed to include the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) rather than the CTAQC. On a motion by Ms. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Tokarski the change in membership of the Transportation Committee was approved.

**H. Human Services Transportation Plan**

Mr. Ciavarelli of Metra provided the committee with an overview of the Human Services Transportation Plan developed by the RTA. The plan satisfies federal requirements for the region to receive funding from the Job Access and Reverse Commute and New Freedom programs. He explained that the plan was developed with the involvement of the service providers and a number of interested parties. He asked that the Policy Committee endorse the plan. On a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Mr. Tokarski, the committee endorsed the Human Services Transportation Plan.

**I. Unified Work Program**

Mr. Kopec explained that the region is just beginning the development of next year's Unified Work Program. Staff is working primarily through the Transportation Committee to develop the program, although input will be sought from other appropriate committees. Mr. Groner mentioned that the Transportation Committee has begun looking at what the priorities should be for the coming year. The Policy Committee will continue to be asked for their input on the content of the program.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Kopec informed the committee that USDOT has requested that the MPO make a formal request that the new extension of I-355 from I-55 to I-80 be officially designated part of the interstate system. Following some discussion regarding how this was dealt with in the past and whether or not the Tollway needed to do anything, Mr. Zapler moved to recommend that the extension to I-355 be added to the interstate system. Mayor Schielke seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Mr. Stoner of the Federal Highway Administration mentioned that he had some additional information regarding a second round of the Urban Partnership Agreement. Essentially, while there has been discussion about a second round, there has been no decision to proceed with such an announcement.

Mr. Zuccherro of the Illinois Tollway explained the events that will be happening in conjunction with the opening of the I-355 extension. On Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> there will be a “Roll the Tollway” bike ride and a 5K run, along with booths and displays by communities and other groups. The work is over 95% complete and expected to be open for traffic shortly after the event on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**V. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for January 10, 2008 in the Sears Tower, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, Illinois at 10:00 a.m.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am. .

Respectfully Submitted,

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Donald P. Kopec  
Secretary